

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00570 091056Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SSM-03 ACDA-07 MCT-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W

-----091245Z 093534 /43

R 090640Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2578

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0570

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, XF

SUBJECT: US POSTURE PG MID EAST

REF: JIDDA 3266

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1 I DO NOT RPT NOT FIND AMBASSADOR PORTER'S COMMENTS IN
REFTEL UNORTHODOX IN THE LEAST. I BELIEVE THE VIEWS HE HAS
EXPRESSED ARE GENERALLY SHARED BY MOST OLD, AND NOT SO OLD,
MIDDLE EAST HANDS WHO HAVE LABORED IN THE WILDERNESS OF THE
MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM FOR MANY YEARS.

2. HOWEVER, I DO BELIEVE THAT AMBASSADOR PORTER IS OVERLY

PESSIMISTIC ABOUT OUR PROSPECTS FOR ACHIEVING A SETTLEMENT.
ADMITTEDLY, DURING MOST OF PERIOD SINCE ESTABLISHMENT OF ISRAEL,
US HAS PURSUED STRONGLY PRO-ISRAEL OR DO-NOTHING POLICY IN AREA.
OUR DECLARED EVEN-HANDEDNESS USUALLY WORKED OUT TO 9 FINGERS
FOR ISRAEL AND THE REMAINING PROMINENT ONE FOR THE ARABS. HOW-
EVER, THE ROGERS PLAN WAS FIRST INDICATION OF A CHANGE OF
DIRECTION, AND THE 1973 WAR AND OIL EMBARGO HIT US SQUARELY IN
THE FACE WITH BASIC FACT THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO PLAY ACTIVE
ROLE IN ARAB-ISRAEL SETTLEMENT OR COURT DISASTER FOR OURSELVES
AND POSSIBLY THE WORLD.

3. US POLICY PROGRESSION FROM 1973 TO PRESENT APPEARS TO RECOGNIZE
AMBASSADOR PORTER'S PREMISES THAT THE ARABS AND ISRAELIS, LEFT
TO THEMSELVES, WILL NEVER GET IT ALL TOGETHER, AND THAT PALESTINIAN
QUESTION IS CORE OF DISPUTE. OUR ACTIONS DURING PAST FEW MONTHS,
PARTICULARLY PRESIDENT'S DECLARATION ON PALESTINIAN "HOMELAND",
AND SECRETARY'S MAY 4 PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENTS ARE CLEAR EVID-
ENCE THAT WE ARE INDEED STAKING OUT A US POSITION ON A SETTLE-
MENT; ALTHOUGH IT NOT TO BE "IMPOSED" ON THE PARTIES, VERY
EXISTENCE OF US AUTHORED PEACE PLAN WILL PUT PRESSURE ON THEM
TO GET BEYOND THE SHAPE OF THE CONFERENCE TABLE.

4. ALSO WORKING FOR US IS FACT THAT ARABS HAVE WISED UP A
LOT IN PAST FEW YEARS. THEIR GROWING WEALTH AND POWER AND
INCREASED SOPHISTICATION IN MANIPULATING INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
APPEAR TO HAVE GIVEN THEM THE CONFIDENCE TO DEAL LESS EMOTION-
ALLY WITH REALITIES OF MID EAST SITUATION. ARABS HAVE RESISTED
MOSCOW'S BLANDISHMENTS, AND HAVE SHOWN AMAZING TOLERANCE OF US
POLICY CAPRICE AND SLUGGISHNESS AS WE WALLOWED THROUGH WATER-
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GATE, 1976 ELECTIONS, ETC. I AGREE THAT WE OWE MODERATE ARABS
FOR THIS PATIENCE, AND THINK THAT THEY ARE STAYING ON BOARD
WITH US BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE WE WILL PAY OFF -- SO DO I.

5. AMBASSADOR PORTER TOWERS OVER US IN EXPERIENCE AND AREA
KNOWLEDGE. HOWEVER, I HAVE SPENT THE MAJOR PART OF MY 19 YEARS
IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE WORKING ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE MIDDLE
EAST PROBLEM, AND IN RECENT MONTHS HAVE EXPERIENCED THE FIRST
REAL HOPE THAT THE US IS PREPARED TO DO THE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE
A SETTLEMENT. I MUST ADMIT THAT MY OPTIMISM IS BASED ON THE
PITIFUL SMATTERING OF INFORMATION WHICH THE DEPT PERMITS TO COME
TO SUCH DISADVANTAGE POINTS AS DOHA. (THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO
DISCERNIBLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE APPARENT POLICY OF PREVIOUS YEARS
OF KEEPING THE FIELD UNINFORMED.) THEREFORE, I CAN ONLY HOPE MY
RELATIVE BLISS IS NOT BASED ON IGNORANCE.

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Message Attributes

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